

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 62. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly  
2 embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method  
3 steps for notifying a family of users of about a non-operating area of a wireless network,  
4 said method steps comprising:

5 providing a database of non-operating areas of the wireless network;

6 one of the users entering a trip route ~~to a G.P.S.~~ in a computing system in the  
7 one user's vehicle; ~~and~~

8 said vehicle querying the database to download the map for dead zones in the  
9 trip route; and

10 comparing the trip route with the map for dead zones.

1 63. (Original) A program storage device readable by machine as recited in claim 62,  
2 said method steps further comprising recommending a changed route having a reduced  
3 area of dead zones.

1 64. (Original) A program storage device readable by machine as recited in claim 63,  
2 wherein the changed route is shown on a G.P.S. screen in the vehicle.

1 65. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine as recited  
2 in claim 62, said method steps further comprising querying the G.P.S. system and  
3 providing a warning signal to the user indicating that the vehicle is approaching a dead  
4 zone.

1 66. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine as recited  
2 in claim ~~62~~ 65, wherein the warning signal includes an audible alarm.

1 67. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying a family of users of dead zones in  
2 a wireless network:

3 providing a database of non-operating areas of the wireless network forming  
4 dead zones;

5 one of said users entering a trip route into a ~~G.P.S.~~ system within a vehicle; and

6 said vehicle querying the database to download a map showing any dead zones  
7 in the trip route; and

8 comparing the trip route with the map for dead zones.

1 68. (Original) A method as recited in claim 67, further comprising recommending a  
2 changed route having a reduced area of dead zones.

1 69. (Original) A method as recited in claim 68, wherein the changed route is shown  
2 on a G.P.S. screen in the vehicle.

1 70. (Original) A method as recited in claim 67, further comprising activating a  
2 warning signal to the one user when the vehicle is approaching a dead zone.

1 71. (Original) A method as recited in claim 70, wherein the warning signal includes  
2 an audible signal.

1 72. (Original) A method as recited in claim 67, further comprising the one user  
2 making a database query of network reception dead zones, and a network management  
3 station responding and determining if the one user is in or near a dead zone, and  
4 notifying the one user when the step of determining locates the user in or near a dead  
5 zone.

1 73. (Original) A method as recited in claim 72, wherein the network management  
2 station can inform the user of an appropriate step to take to maintain connectivity.

1 74. (New) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a  
2 program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps to detect  
3 dead zones in a wireless network, said network having a plurality of users being  
4 interconnected within the wireless network and having a plurality of base stations  
5 communicating with said plurality of users in a plurality of cells corresponding to said  
6 base stations and said network having means for locating users within cells, said method  
7 comprising:

8 a first user of said plurality of users communicating via said wireless network,

9 the first user measuring and detecting a message error rate while communicating,

10 said first user broadcasting an error message to a base station when the error rate  
11 exceeds an error threshold level,

12 said base station obtaining a location of the first user,

13 said base station incorporating the location of the first user in a database of dead zones  
14 for the wireless network; and

15 said base station transmitting a warning message to others of said plurality of users near  
16 the location of the first user.

1 75. (New) A device as recited in claim 74, wherein each of a subset of the users  
2 has a mobile unit forming a mobile user connection with the wireless network , whereby  
3 said network maintains information on the location of said subset of users within said  
4 set of cells.

5 76. (New) A device as recited in claim 74, wherein the wireless network includes  
6 a plurality of cellular phones.

1 77. (New) A device as recited in claim 74, wherein the wireless network includes  
2 a plurality of portable computing devices interconnected via a wireless local area  
3 network.